

the technique. The first few chapters consider in detail the basic skills necessary before embarking upon this type of assay. With clarity and reasoned argument, he describes tissue preparation, the necessity for maintenance culture, the histological techniques, a variety of enzymatic reactions, microdensitometry, and discusses the validation of assays with comments on appropriate statistics. Specific assays for seven hormones are described in detail, which is particularly helpful for those wishing to set up such assays. It is not apparent from the text, however, that all these assays are capricious, very time consuming, and difficult to perform. They require the constant attention of devoted enthusiasts.

The book is written in such elegant language that it is a pleasure to read. It is undoubtedly a book for the specialist interested in dynamic cytochemistry or hormone measurement, but is essential reading for those intending to establish cytochemical bioassays.

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**The Lymphocyte** (Progress in Clinical  
and Biological Research, vol 58)

K W Sell & W V Miller (ed) pp 228

£23.20 New York: Alan R Liss 1981

'The Lymphocyte' is a collection of 15 papers presented at the 12th Annual Scientific Symposium of the American Red Cross Blood Services. The main areas covered are biology of lymphocytes, immunoregulation, genetics of lymphocytes and the lymphocyte in clinical medicine. There are excellent sections on the role of lymphocytes in erythropoiesis, immunoregulation autoimmunity and its abnormality in autoimmune disease and cancer. Biochemical defects in lymphocytes particularly adenosine deaminase (ADA) deficiency are well explained. Genetics of lymphocytes and the current knowledge of the HLA antigen system in health and disease are comprehensively discussed. The chapters on thymus hormone and thymosine are helpful in understanding the complex nature of the function of the thymus.

The papers on the whole represent a good choice from the areas of interest from the lymphocyte field. They are generally well written and illustrate the subject in a simple but detailed manner, in most cases references are given in abundance. This is one of those books which can be profitably and enjoyably read by anyone working in the haematological field.

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**Journal of Molecular and Applied Genetics**

vol 1 No. 1 H M Goodman (ed) pp 81

US\$90 (US\$145 institutional) per year

(bimonthly) New York: Raven Press 1980

The rapid expansion of the field of recombinant DNA technology has been reflected both in a change in the content of a number of established journals and in the arrival of several newcomers. The latest among these is the *Journal of Molecular and Applied Genetics* which has set out to achieve rapid publication of full length papers without restrictions on documentation and without page and figure limitations. Such a liberal approach is likely to lead to problems. I predict that before long it may, like other journals, be forced to abandon this policy to avoid an unacceptably high rejection rate or an unreasonably long publication time. On the other hand, its existence may lessen the pressure and make life easier for all journals in this field. Anyone interested in the applications of the new biotechnology to medicine and other disciplines must take note of this journal.

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**Breast Cancer Management**

R C Coombes *et al.* (ed) pp 317

£18 London: Academic Press 1981

It was very refreshing to read this short study on the management of patients with breast cancer. No attempt has been made to give a comprehensive review of the subject. Instead each chapter outlines the experience of the particular author and gives simple practical advice. The idea of the combined clinic was always emphasized by Professor Sir David Smithers and this has again been reinforced and enlarged in its scope.

All the chapters are good and it would be invidious to single out any one author, but of particular interest to the general surgeon will be the chapter on the role of the nurse, an area which has been neglected by many hospitals. The emphasis on the medical as opposed to the surgical aspects of the subject is stressed and histopathology shares an important place among the many contributions. The importance of a multidisciplinary approach is evident throughout the book and this once again emphasizes the role of the combined clinic in hospital practice.

This is a clear and positive review of the management of breast cancer and will be most helpful to both the general surgeon and the oncologist.

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